

IN MEMORY OF DR. GEORGE
MEETZE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in loving memory of Rev. Dr. George Elias Meetze. Dr. Meetze died Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006, after a brief illness. He was born June 24, 1909, in Columbia South Carolina. He was the son of the late Narvie Elias and Fannie Belle Leitzsey Meetze. On June 30, 1936, he married Margaret Allen who predeceased him.

Dr. Meetze was Columbia High School Valedictorian class of 1927. He was a graduate of the University of South Carolina, A.B., cum laude, 1930; the N.Y. Theological Seminary, N.Y., S.T.M., 1933; the Lutheran Southern Seminary, Columbia, 1934; and received his Honorary D.D. Degree conferred at Newberry College Centennial Convocation, Nov. 28, 1956.

Dr. Meetze served as Pastor to St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Charleston (was ordained there July 8, 1934), 1934–37 and Grace Lutheran Church, Prosperity, 1937–42; Retired Pastor Emeritus, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, June 1942–1974. He was elected Chaplain of the S.C. Senate January 10, 1950, serving until his death. His 57 years of service established him as the longest serving Chaplain of a legislative body in the history of the world.

Dr. Meetze's 97 years consisted of numerous activities, honors and services, included were serving on the boards of Social Missions Lutheran Synod of S.C., S.C. Synod Lutheran Church of America, Junior League Speech and Hearing, Salvation Army and S.C. Chapter of the American Cancer Society, where he was a past president. He enjoyed his memberships in Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, the Columbia Rotary Club, Heptagon Club, the Palmetto Forum, The Friday The Thirteenth Club, and the S.C. State Guard, where he was a Colonel and Chief Chaplain. He received the Service to Mankind Award by the Columbia Sertoma Clubs, the Paul Harris Fellow Rotary International award, the Order of the Palmetto, the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award, and the 2000 U.S.C. Alumni Award. Dr. Meetze was the author of *The Development of Dr. Martin Luther's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper*. He was listed in *Who's Who in the South & Southwest*, *S.C. Lives*, *Dictionary of Intl. Biography & Royal Blue Book*.

Surviving are his sons and daughters-in-law; George Allen and Suzanne Meetze of Marion and William Dagnall and Toby Meetze of Columbia; grandsons, Michael Allen Meetze and wife, Tracy, William Vickery Meetze, all of Marion, George Seabrook Meetze and wife, Alston, William Dagnall Meetze Jr. and wife, Sheri, all of Columbia. Also surviving are his beloved infant great-grandsons, Elias Shaw Meetze and twins, William Seabrook Meetze and Joseph Alston Meetze; and nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. He was predeceased by sister, Thelma Meetze Frick.

Dr. Meetze loved his God, his family, the South Carolina Senate, his state and his country. He enjoyed helping people and was always ready "to send up a prayer" as he said

"for those who needed one." He will be greatly missed by his thousands of friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the NATO—Parliamentary Assembly, I traveled to Quebec, Canada, from Sunday, November 12 to November 15, 2006 to participate in the assembly meetings. Due to the timing of the meetings and return travel, I was unable to participate in votes on Monday and Tuesday, November 13–14. I am requesting my absence for this date. I would also like you to note that, should I have been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Aye." H.R. 3085—Amending the National Trails System Act (Roll no. 517).

"Aye." S. 819—Reallocation of funds for the Pactola Dam (Roll no. 518).

"Aye." H.R. 5602—Authorizing the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment to the Products of Vietnam (Roll no. 519).

"Aye." H.R. 6314—Extending provisions within the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program (Roll no. 520).

"Aye." H.R. 864—Sober Truth in Preventing Underage Drinking Act (Roll no. 521).

"Aye." H.R. 5585—Financial Netting Improvements Act (Roll no. 522).

"Aye." H. Res. 1078—Congratulations to 2006 World Series Champions (Roll no. 523).

CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCRETIA JACKSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lucretia Jackson of Alexandria, Virginia, on being awarded the Washington Post's Distinguished Education Leader Award for 2006.

As principal of Maury Elementary School in Alexandria, Ms. Jackson has led the school's dramatic turnaround. In the four years since Maury was "accredited with warning" in four content areas, Ms. Jackson has worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of school life. Since joining the school in 2004, she has spent endless hours recruiting a "dream team" of teachers for the school, revamping the entire licensed and support staff with dedicated and inspiring new staff who were ready to work hard and turn the school around.

Standards of Learning test scores at Maury have improved drastically due to Ms. Jackson's work. Every student at Maury passed the science SOL in 2006, compared to only fifteen percent in 2003. Similar improvements have been seen in math and reading SOL scores: Ninety-three percent of students passed their reading SOLs compared to only forty-five percent in 2003, and eighty-three percent passed the math portion compared to only thirty-eight in 2003. Ms. Jackson encouraged teachers to work closely with students to improve these scores, even instituting a "Se-

cret SOL Supporters" program to help encourage students through difficult study periods with notes and gifts hidden at students' desks.

Maury Elementary is now a model example for underperforming schools thanks to the hard work of Ms. Jackson and her staff. Despite an early drop in enrollment after the poor test scores of 2003, enrollment has risen right along side test scores at Maury. I am sure that under Lucretia Jackson's leadership, the school will continue to see immense improvements in the years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Jackson on this award and her tremendous success.

TRIBUTE TO M. ATHALIE RANGE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness to memorialize the late M. Athalie Range, who, at age 91, died on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. I join our community, now saddened by the passing of this great civil rights icon, who represented all that is decent and honorable about our common humanity.

A genuine legend, this eloquent and courageous lady held our disenfranchised community together when access to equal justice was denied to us. She led the struggle of reason and conscience in righting this wrong.

She was barely 5 feet tall, but she stood indomitable against the forces of segregation and racism. She was a pioneer in forcing equal opportunity and justice for all. M. Athalie Range was a beacon who showed the way for us in fighting for the rights of others. The magnitude of her courage and the strength of her heart defined her will to end inequality and discrimination everywhere she found their evil vestiges.

A native Floridian, Ms. Range was born in Key West, was educated in Miami, and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School. Her achievements were numerous, but a prominent accomplishment was her election as the first African-American to the Miami City Commission. She was the first Black woman ever to head a State agency, appointed by then-Florida Governor Reuben Askew as Secretary of Community Affairs, and she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Board of AMTRAK. Her humanitarianism was duly recognized when she was given the Silver Medallion Award by the Florida chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, followed by the Spirit of Excellence Award by The Miami Herald.

"She knew more about politics than anyone I knew," said former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. "She taught me humility, first and foremost. She taught me to go out and talk with the little people in the community, who no one else thought about."

Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to write these statements on behalf of this "Grande Dame of Public Service" without thinking of my many wonderful memories of her. The most appropriate way I can describe her was that her life was as gentle as her words were gracious, purposeful and elegant. Her descriptions of our challenges as a people were insightful—so